



Court Advocacy Day, March 31, State House

A functioning court system is a critical function of government. Just for the record....the Judicial Branch represents only 2.4 percent of the total state budget.

COURT FUNDING STATUS:

- Gov. Deval Patrick's proposed FY10 Judiciary budget: \$579.4 million with \$560 million for the Trial Court; and
- Courts now seek 'core function' **funding for the entire Judiciary of \$622.7 million.** This includes \$601.2 million for the Trial Court; \$583.7 million to maintain services at current levels and \$17.5 million to fund the FY10 portion of the Local 6 contract for clerical workers.

IMPACT OF CUTS ON YOUR CONSTITUENTS:

Gov. Patrick's FY10 budget proposal would severely impede the court's ability to provide core services to your constituents. Inadequate court funding as proposed by Gov. Patrick would adversely affect your communities in these and other ways:

- Require layoffs of 250 to 375 court employees, which would result in:
 - Delays in case processing, jeopardizing public safety and increasing overall spending; staffing levels now below adequate level of service; and
 - Impact on the Trial Court's ability to manage collection of \$123.5 million in revenue for the commonwealth.
- Force consolidation of courthouses through temporary relocations of court operations and termination of leases;
- Delay emergency petitions on domestic and family matters, such as restraining orders, juvenile care & protection orders, and Children in Need of Services' petitions;
- Increase the number of pre-trial detainees, exacerbating jail overcrowding and increasing costs; and
- Cause further delay in resolution of business disputes.

BUDGET REDUCTION ACTION ALREADY TAKEN BY JUDICIARY:

- Voluntarily cut \$22.1 million from its FY09 budget at Gov. Patrick's request in October 2008;
- Limited hiring since July 2007; began hiring freeze in October 2008;
- Eliminated Alternative Dispute Resolution Services contracts and restricted assignment of Guardians *ad litem* (key access to justice services); and
- Eliminated funding for per diem court reporters and information technology projects; cut reference materials, utilities, equipment and supplies.